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Title : UNDERSTANDING CAMPAIGN ABOUT THE AMAZONIAN MANATEE'S (Trichechus inunguis) IN THE AMAZONAS STATE, BRAZIL.

Category : Conservation

Student : Not Applicable

Preferred Format : Poster Presentation

Abstract : The Amazonian manatee's occurs at Amazonian basin and it is considered by IUCN (2000) as vulnerable. This species was extremely hunted in Brazil since the colonization period, with a predatory hunting. Currently, it still is hunted with a subsistence hunting. Informative campaign are very important to conserve the species. From May to September 2000 the "Centro Mamíferos Aquáticos/IBAMA" (Aquatic Mammal Center) together with the "Fundação Mamíferos Aquáticos" (Aquatic Mammal Foundation), with the support of "Fundo Nacional do Meio Ambiente" (Environment National Funds), performed an understanding campaign denominated "Não Mate" (Do Not Kill) at riverine communities along Amazonian basin, where we visited schools and centers of the communities explaining about the species, the laws that protect it and about the threat to Amazonian manatee's to be endangered, aiming to decrease the intentional catch. The campaign was performed at more than 6,400Km along the principal rivers and lakes of Amazonas State: Solimões, Negro, Amazonas, Madeira, Purus, Cabaliana, Manacapuru and Janaúca. We visited 262 localities, fixed 1,500 posters and distributed 4,000 informative notebook about Amazonian manatee's. We always tried to talk to the hunters, to reach, in this way, a more specific group. We changed with them t-shirts and caps with the slogan "Eu Não Mato. E Você?" (I Do Not Kill. And You?) for gear used on catch or even for bones, fat and leather of the Amazonian manatee's. Doing that we got that the hunters do not use the gear to catch and the biological material any more. The most of people that we made contact (97%) knew that the animal is protected by law, this fact shows the necessity of to intensify the examination in that region to inhibit the hunting.